

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is filed in response to the outstanding Office Action in the present application. In that Office Action, Claims 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first paragraph. Claims 16 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as anticipated by either US Patent 4,948,303 to Good or US Patent 3,825,210 to Weaver. Claims 16, 19-22, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as obvious over either Good or Weaver. Claims 29-36 were withdrawn by the Examiner and claims 23-26 were noted as allowable.

Claims 19 and 20 have been amended herein to delete the phrase "anti-microbial". Thus claims 19 and 20 as presented are believed to satisfy the requirements of Section 112. Claims 23 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form, containing all of the language from the original base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 29-36 have been canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 16 and 19-22 as anticipated by either Good or Weaver is respectfully traversed. Neither reference discloses nor suggests the use of first and second halves formed of an anti-microbial material in a carrier. For example, Good does not even suggest the type of material that forms main body portion 2. Weaver suggests use of a polycarbonate plastic to make shells 12 and 12', but certainly does not suggest use of glass containing metal ions. The use of anti-microbial material is a significant advance in the industry, as many carriers are used to transport hazardous materials, such as medical and biological fluid samples, as noted on page 6 of the specification. It is also significant in non-medical applications, such as when used in banking as noted on page 9 of the specification. With the heightened concern in the general public of the transmission of deadly diseases, the use of an anti-microbial carrier in an application where the general public will come into contact with the carrier, such as in banking, is a great benefit.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 16, 19-22, 27 and 28 as obvious over either Good or Weaver is also respectfully traversed. Again, neither references discloses not suggest the use of first and second halves formed of anti-microbial material in a carrier. Neither reference mentions or suggests any need for such a material.

No additional fee is believed necessary to file this Response. If any additional fees are necessary for the proper filing of this document and the supporting documents, please withdraw them from Deposit Account No. 50-1274(GOLS B-2091).

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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